

San Jose Grand Park Qualities and Possible Events and Spaces

SAN JOSE'S GRAND PARK QUALITIES

1. A place loved and cherished by the entire San Jose population.
2. A place nationally recognized as one of the best urban parks in the world; visitors and professionals come to San Jose to visit it and thus add tourists and lengthen tourist days.
3. A sense that the city and urban life are far away.
4. Biological diversity (for plants, birds, butterflies, beneficial insects); bird sounds and the energy of insects pollinating everywhere.
5. No limitations on plant sizes and their seeds, flowers, and food production.
6. Ecological niches for all possible life forms (creation of vegetative nesting areas with nearby food and water source).
7. Clean air so plants and people can breath; without clean air the plants will collect soot, not be able to breath, become sick, and thus become more expensive to maintain.; clean air is also needed so visitors can play sports safely in many variety of open spaces.
8. Large trees over 100 feet tall; such trees will protect understory plants from pollution, wind, and severe frosts.
9. Peaceful calm spaces and walks combined with active areas for exploring, events, and recreation.
10. A place of wonder, and magic to escape from our high technology fast paced world.
11. Art and nature come together harmoniously.
12. A place for all ages, cultures, rich and poor, and families.
13. Places which will help us understand how to improve our land via research, demonstration, and education; this will improve the professions in the community and in government.
14. Places which will help us understand our environment and how to improve our land via research, demonstration, and education.
15. Near historically important boulevards, public transportation, and creek trails.
16. Near other open spaces so it could be used as part of a future Olympic Games center.

POSSIBLE EVENTS AND SPACE IDEAS FOR SAN JOSE'S GRAND PARK

1. Peaceful meandering walks and resting places.
2. Theme gardens (various cultural themes, children, herbal, medicinal, historical, sculptural, poetry, fairy, a secret garden, taxonomy, Shakespeare, California history, garden architecture, food and community gardens, Bible, miniature railroad, bonsai, miniature golf, moon, star gazing).
3. Botanical garden and small zoo.
4. Horticultural and agricultural library.

5. Lakes for boating
6. Waterfalls and fountains for sound and bird habitat.
7. Bird and wildlife sanctuary.
8. Wild natural areas for schools and research.
9. Large meadows for nationally important concerts, fairs, and historical car shows (note that in the 1960s San Jose had its most famous rock concerts at the fairgrounds).
10. Places for nationally recognized sports competitions as well as community sports events (swimming, soccer, tennis, volleyball, horse shows, gymnastics, and hockey, dance).
11. Community events (4H, cultural garden shows, agricultural fairs, Scottish Games, dances, art shows, environmental fairs, community sponsored events).
12. Picnic and BBQ areas
13. Outdoor restaurants.
14. Environmental demonstration areas (wind mills, water harvesting, healthy soil biology and bioremediation, solar in the landscape and public spaces).
15. Garden and environmental store.
16. Urban garden research and education center.
17. Historical center for the Valley of Hearts Delight.
18. Natural history museum, conservatory for tropical plants, and other museum themes.

NOTE: Most of these things can be paid for with creative finance ideas as has happened in other American Cities. The best American cities have most of these kinds of places and events. San Jose desperately needs a Grand Park with these kinds of places and qualities.

Prepared by:
Kathryn Mathewson, Secret Gardens
San Jose, CA
408-292-9595
www.secretgardens.com